United Nations

Report of the Disarmament Commission

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NOTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/38 A of 6 December 1991, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", by which the Assembly, inter alia:

"1. Takes note of the annual report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

"2. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission has successfully implemented its reform programme and has made considerable progress on substantive items on its agenda, pursuant to the 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission' adopted at its 1990 substantive session; 2/

"3. Recalls the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

"4. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ and with paragraph 3 of resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission';

"5. Stresses the importance for the Disarmament Commission to work on the basis of a relevant agenda of disarmament topics, thereby enabling the Commission to concentrate its efforts and thus optimize its progress on specific subjects in accordance with resolution 37/78 H;

"6. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1991 organizational session, adopted the following items for consideration at its 1992 substantive session:

"(1) Objective information on military matters;

"(2) Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons;

"(3) Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security;

"(4) The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields;

"7. Also requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1992 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, 4/ together with all the official records of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

"9. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages, and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services to this end;

"10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled 'Report of the Disarmament Commission'."

2. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters and held one meeting (A/CN.10/PV.162) on 3 December 1991 for a brief organizational session. During that session, the Commission considered questions related to the organization of work for its 1992 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137). The Commission took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the chairmanship among the geographic regions, and elected its Chairman and eight Vice-Chairmen as well as its Rapporteur. The Commission considered and agreed on the provisional agenda for the 1992 substantive session (see para. 5 below). The Commission decided to establish a Committee of the Whole and four working groups to deal with the four substantive items on the agenda and appointed the Chairmen of the Working Groups. The Commission further decided that its next substantive session would be held from 20 April to 11 May 1992.

II. ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE 1992 SESSION

3. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 20 April to 11 May 1992. In the course of its session, the Commission held eight plenary meetings (A/CN.10/PV.163-170) under the chairmanship of Mr. André Erdös (Hungary). Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, served as Secretary of the Disarmament Commission.

4. During the 1992 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mr. André Erdös (Hungary)

Vice-Chairmen: Representatives from the following States:

Brazil	Malaysia
Cameroon	Nepal
Egypt	Romania
Finland	Uruguay

Rapporteur: Mr. Bob Hiensch (Netherlands)

5. At its 163rd plenary meeting, on 20 April 1992, the Commission adopted its agenda, contained in document A/CN.10/L.30, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Organization of work.

4. Objective information on military matters.

5. Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

6. Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security.

7. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields.

8. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

9. Other business.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its general programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/1992/CRP.1) and decided to allocate four meetings to a general exchange of views.

7. On 20 and 21 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (A/CN.10/PV.163-166).

8. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1991 organizational session, the Disarmament Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, entitled "Objective information on military matters". Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Mr. Carl-Magnus Hyltenius (Sweden) and held 17 meetings between 22 April and 11 May.

9. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons". Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Mr. Prakash Shah (India) and held nine meetings between 22 April and 7 May.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group III with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 6, entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security". Working Group III met under the chairmanship of Mr. Ricardo Luna (Peru) and his deputy, Mr. Javier Paulinich, and held nine meetings between 22 April and 8 May.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group IV with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 7, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields". Working Group IV met under the chairmanship of Mr. Emeka Ayo Azikiwe (Nigeria) and held 10 meetings between 22 April and 8 May.

12. At its 169th meeting, on 11 May, the Disarmament Commission considered the reports of Working Groups I, II, III and IV on agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7 respectively. The reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein are included in section IV of the present report.

13. In accordance with past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings as well as meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

III. DOCUMENTATION

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

14. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 46/38 A, the Secretary-General, by a note dated 5 February 1992, transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, 4/ together with all the official records of the forty-sixth session of the Assembly relating to disarmament matters (A/CN.10/164).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

15. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted.

16. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields: the role of science and technology in the context of the implementation of disarmament agreements" was submitted by Portugal on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States (A/CN.10/165).

17. A letter was submitted by the head of the Chinese delegation addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, containing a working paper on the subject of "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" (A/CN.10/166).

18. A letter was submitted by the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the Disarmament Commission, on the subjects of "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" and "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" (A/CN.10/167).

19. A working paper entitled "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security" was submitted by Cuba (A/CN.10/168).

20. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" was submitted by Colombia (A/CN.10/169).

21. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields: the application of science and technology for verification purposes" was submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/170).

22. A working paper entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields: international transfer of sensitive technologies" was submitted by Brazil (A/CN.10/171).

23. A working paper entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" was submitted by Portugal on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States (A/CN.10/172).

24. A working paper entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" was submitted by Ireland (A/CN.10/173).

25. A number of other working papers dealing with substantive questions were also submitted by Member States to the Working Groups, which are referred to in the reports.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

26. At its 169th plenary meeting, on 11 May, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein regarding agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of those reports, reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

27. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

28. The report of Working Group I on agenda item 4 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 162nd meeting, on 3 December 1991, approved its provisional agenda for the 1992 substantive session and decided to establish Working Group I to deal with agenda item 4 regarding 'objective information on military matters', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/38 A.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group I had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CN.10/142 and Add.1);

"(b) Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/CN.10/144 and Rev.1);

"(c) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/146);

"(d) Working paper submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Economic Community (A/CN.10/160);

"(e) Working paper submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/161);

"(f) Conference room papers (A/CN.10/1991/WG.I/CRP.1-7 and 9-12 and Rev.1);

"(g) Conference room papers (A/CN.10/1992/WG.I/CRP.1-7).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Carl-Magnus Hyltenius of Sweden, and Mr. Timur Alasaniya of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Group.

"4. The Working Group held 17 meetings between 22 April and 11 May 1992. Furthermore, the Chairman conducted informal open-ended and private consultations during this period.

"5. At its 16th meeting, on 8 May, the Working Group adopted by consensus the 'Guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters', which are contained in the annex to the present report (annex I).

"6. At its 17th meeting, on 11 May, the Working Group adopted by consensus its report on the subject."

29. The report of Working Group II on agenda item 5 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 162nd meeting, on 3 December 1991, approved its provisional agenda for the 1992 substantive session and decided to establish Working Group II to deal with agenda item 5 regarding 'Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/38 A.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group II had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by Argentina (A/CN.10/148);

"(b) Working paper submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/157);

"(c) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/166);

"(d) Letter dated 16 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/167);

"(e) Working paper submitted by Portugal on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States (A/CN.10/172);

"(f) Working paper submitted by Ireland (A/CN.10/173);

"(g) Working paper submitted by Cuba (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/WP.1);

"(h) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/WP.2);

"(i) Working paper submitted by Egypt (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/WP.3);

"(j) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/WP.4);

"(k) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/WP.5);

"(l) Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.II/CRP.1);

"(m) Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1991/WG.II/CRP.2);

"(n) Conference room paper (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/CRP.1);

"(o) Record of decisions (A/CN.10/1992/WG.II/DEC.1).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Prakash Shah of India and held nine meetings between 22 April and 7 May 1992. Ms. Jenifer Mackby of the Office for Disarmament Affairs,

Department of Political Affairs, served as Secretary of the Working Group. The Chairman also conducted informal consultations during this period.

"4. At the beginning of the first meeting, the Chairman made an introductory statement.

"5. At its second meeting, on 23 April 1992, the Working Group decided to base its work on the following four agreed subjects presented by the Chairman of the Group at the 1991 session of the Disarmament Commission (as contained in A/46/42):

"1. The relationship between the process of nuclear disarmament and international peace and security;

"2. Review of the steps taken in the process of nuclear disarmament;

"3. Strengthening the process of nuclear disarmament, necessary conditions and mechanisms required for it;

"4. The role of the United Nations system in the process of nuclear disarmament with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

"6. The Group further decided at its second meeting that it would proceed to discuss the first two subjects while a core working group, open to all interested Member States, elaborated the specific items for discussion under item 3; that its report would be structured and presented under these four subjects and the subheadings that might be elaborated during these discussions; and that Working Group II would cover as many subjects as possible during the 1992 session and its work would be carried forward during the 1993 session.

"7. The debate on the four subjects was lively and constructive. The changed international climate provided the Working Group a new setting to exchange views and perceptions on a wide variety of issues under the agenda item. Even though there was a continuing divergence of views on major substantive issues, the focus on specific issues has provided a useful springboard for the work of the Group in its final year.

"8. During the course of the discussions, the four subjects were further elaborated by the Group, and it is the hope of the Group that at the next session of the Disarmament Commission consensus may be reached on a document for agenda item 5. The elaboration of the four subjects has helped in identifying some aspects on which the Group may wish to focus in the future. The Working Group believes that the progress made during this year's session in identifying and elaborating the various interrelated elements under the four subjects should enable it, at its next year's session, to work towards consensus-building to be reflected in its final report. The large number of working papers presented and statements made at the session not only reflects the heightened interest of Member States on the issue of nuclear disarmament, but will contribute greatly to the Group's work next year.

"9. The elaboration, annexed herewith (annex II) is not exhaustive. The list is without prejudice to the right of any delegation to address items that do not appear on it; its sequence does not reflect any order of priorities, nor does it prejudice the position of any delegation.

"10. At its 9th meeting, on 7 May, the Working Group adopted the present report to the Disarmament Commission by consensus."

30. The report of Working Group III on agenda item 6 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group III on agenda item 6

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 162nd meeting, on 3 December 1991, decided to establish Working Group III to deal with agenda item 6 regarding 'Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/38 A.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group III had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/CN.10/149);

"(b) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Austria (A/CN.10/151);

"(c) Working paper on China's basic position on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by China (A/CN.10/152);

"(d) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Ecuador (A/CN.10/153);

"(e) Working paper on regional disarmament and global security: elements for a regional approach to arms control and disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Economic Community (A/CN.10/154);

"(f) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Pakistan (A/CN.10/158);

"(g) Working paper on the relationship between disarmament and global security, and principles and guidelines for regional disarmament and arms control initiatives, submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/162);

"(h) Working paper on the process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons, and regional disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/167);

"(i) Working paper on regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security, submitted by Cuba (A/CN.10/168).

"3. Working Group III met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Ricardo Luna of Peru and his Deputy, Mr. Javier Paulinich, and held nine meetings between 22 April and 8 May 1992. Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, served as Secretary of the Working Group and Ms. Carolyn Cooper from the same Office acted as Deputy Secretary. The Chairman of the Working Group also conducted a number of informal consultations during this period.

"4. At its first meeting, on 22 April, the Working Group decided to take the Chairman's paper of Working Group III of the 1991 session of the Disarmament Commission, as contained in annex III of document A/46/42, as the basis for further deliberations on the subject, taking into consideration new proposals to be submitted.

"5. At the same meeting, the Working Group agreed to proceed with its consideration of the subject in a structured manner and concentrated its efforts on the first two topics of the five topics in the paper, namely: (1) relationship between regional disarmament and global security and arms limitation and disarmament; (2) principles and guidelines; (3) ways and means; (4) machineries and modalities; and (5) role of the United Nations.

"6. Following an extensive consideration of the subject-matter of the first two topics, the Chairman presented papers to the Working Group, as annexes (A/CN.10/1992/WG.III/CRP.2/Rev.1 and A/CN.10/1992/WG.III/CRP.3/Rev.1, see annexes III and IV), without prejudice to the positions of delegations.

"7. At its 9th meeting, on 8 May, the Working Group adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 6 to the Disarmament Commission."

31. The report of Working Group IV on agenda item 7 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group IV on agenda item 7

"1. At its 162nd meeting, on 3 December 1991, the Disarmament Commission approved its provisional agenda for the 1992 substantive session and decided to establish Working Group IV to deal with agenda item 7 regarding 'The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields' pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/38 A.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group IV had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by Argentina and Brazil (A/CN.10/145);

"(b) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/147);

"(c) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/150);

"(d) Working paper submitted by the Netherlands on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Economic Community (A/CN.10/155);

"(e) Working paper submitted by Colombia (A/CN.10/156);

"(f) Working paper submitted by Austria (A/CN.10/159);

"(g) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/163);

"(h) Working paper submitted by Portugal on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States (A/CN.10/165);

"(i) Working paper submitted by Colombia (A/CN.10/169);

"(j) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/170);

"(k) Working paper submitted by Brazil (A/CN.10/171);

"(l) Clustered compilation of working papers provided to Working Group IV in 1991 and 1992 (A/CN.10/1992/WG.IV/CRP.1);

"(m) Discussion paper submitted by Canada (WG.IV/INF.1).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Ambassador Emeka Ayo Azikiwe of Nigeria and held 10 meetings between 22 April and 8 May 1992. Mr. Sammy K. Buo and Ms. Lucy Webster of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, served as Secretaries of the Working Group. Informal consultations with the Group were also conducted by the Chairman and, at his request, by Ambassador Peggy Mason of Canada.

"4. Bearing in mind that the Working Group was in the second year of its consideration of this item, it was agreed that a structured debate should continue on each of the four substantive aspects of the item identified in last year's session, namely:

"1. Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security;

"2. Science and technology for disarmament;

"3. The role of science and technology in other related fields;

"4. The transfer of high technology with military applications.

At the same time, views were expressed that a further focusing of the work might be necessary to facilitate the development of concrete recommendations. Given the stage of the discussions, future work might be best expedited by focusing the activities of the Working Group on the major areas of interest as outlined in the report, possibly by establishing sub-working groups for a limited period of time.

"5. On sub-item I, the Working Group continued its debate on different aspects of the question of scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security. It was generally recognized that international security as such depends on a multiplicity of factors in the social, economic, environmental as well as the military field. There

was consensus that science and technology per se were deemed to be neutral and their application for peaceful purposes should be promoted. Further, it was stated that qualitative improvements in the application of science and technology for military purposes might have positive as well as negative implications for international security. In that regard, views were expressed that a qualitative arms race was a matter of grave concern and that concrete steps, including multilateral efforts, continued to be required to address that concern. The view was expressed that collective consideration of the destabilizing potential inherent in the scientific and technological developments, which would make the global security environment more complex and insecure and the search for verification even more elusive, was therefore an urgent joint endeavour, without infringing upon the momentum of peaceful research and development activity. It was stated that science and technology contributed significantly to international peace and security. Examples cited of potentially positive implications included the development of defensive military systems and the application of science and technology for the implementation and verification of disarmament agreements. Concerns were expressed over the improvement of armaments, especially in relation to weapons of mass destruction. Others felt that the exercise of political judgement was a key factor in determining the impact of the use of science and technology for international security. It was also stated that the transfer of high technology with military applications needed to be addressed. Finally, it was agreed that the application of science and technology for legitimate defence purposes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and generally agreed principles of international law was acceptable. It was recalled that working papers presented under this sub-item in 1991 were A/CN.10/147, submitted by India, and A/CN.10/150, submitted by China. Colombia submitted a new working paper (A/CN.10/169), which in part also addressed sub-item 1.

"6. On sub-item 2, on science and technology for disarmament, the Working Group deepened its debate, particularly on the broad question of the positive role that science and technology might play in the context of the implementation of disarmament agreements. Progress was made in identifying areas in which disarmament-related science and technology is applied, including in relation to weapons disposal, military conversion and the negotiation and verification of disarmament agreements. Further, the need to strengthen international cooperation in this regard was recognized. During the course of the discussions it also became clear that the question of access to disarmament-related technologies required for the effective implementation of disarmament agreements was of particular relevance. It was generally agreed that efforts should be increased to develop concrete recommendations under this sub-item. In that regard it was recalled that the following working papers were submitted under the sub-item in 1991: by China (A/CN.10/150), by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States (A/CN.10/155), by Austria (A/CN.10/159) and by Canada (A/CN.10/163). In 1992, working papers were submitted by Portugal on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States (A/CN.10/165) and by Canada (A/CN.10/170).

"7. On sub-item 3, the Working Group returned to the role of science and technology in other related fields. Views were expressed on the question

of the application of military technology to purposes related to the protection of the environment, in the light, inter alia, of the United Nations study contained in document A/46/364 of 1991 entitled 'Charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavours to protect the environment'. It was pointed out that a number of conclusions and recommendations therein might be relevant to the Group's work. The question of the utilization of scientific and technological resources currently applied to military purposes for the promotion of economic and social development was also addressed in the course of the discussions. It was recalled that a working paper was submitted by Austria under this sub-item in 1991 (A/CN.10/159), and that the working paper submitted by Colombia in 1992 (A/CN.10/169) related largely to this sub-item.

"8. On sub-item 4, on the transfer of high technology with military applications, the Working Group continued its consideration of the proposal by Argentina and Brazil for seeking universally acceptable international norms or guidelines that would regulate international transfers of sensitive technologies. In this context the need to widen multilateral dialogue was recognized. It was further agreed that norms or guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they did not deny access to high technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes.

"9. Following the deliberations of the Working Group, the Chairman, on his own initiative and without prejudice to the position of delegations, recalled that the following observations, among others, had been made:

- It was stated that one of the objectives of such a dialogue was to promote international cooperation in a framework that would ensure security and development, while at the same time preventing the dangers of the diversion for illegitimate purposes of high technology with military applications.

- Further, it was stated that export control measures taken in this field by some supplier States, individually or in consultation among themselves, were designed to implement their commitments under existing legal instruments not to transfer weapons of mass destruction and WMD-related equipment and technologies, thereby contributing to the strengthening of international security.

- Views were expressed that, while a dialogue on technology transfer was welcome, initiatives in this area should not weaken, detract from, nor supplant, existing effective arrangements that are successfully working to curb proliferation. It was stated that all States should support existing agreements and other control arrangements and that increased participation should be welcomed and encouraged.

- In this context it was further stated that existing control regimes might be necessary but not sufficient and that, in order to reinforce their effectiveness, the legitimacy of such regimes would have to be recognized by all States. Moreover, an effort to increase transparency in the transfer of high technology with military applications was called for. It was stated that other aspects such as non-discrimination, equity, predictability, effectiveness and reciprocity of benefits and obligations would contribute to the acceptance of the legitimacy of regimes affecting the transfer of sensitive technologies.

- It was also stated that any measures taken in the field of controlling the export of technology should be multilaterally negotiated and agreed. Otherwise, it was stated, they tended to be discriminatory, arbitrary and might result in diminished security of some States. It was further stated that control regimes that were set up without multilateral approval and agreement could not be considered as legitimate or acceptable to non-parties.

- Others stated that, since the effectiveness of whatever norms and criteria might be adopted is largely contingent on their universal applicability, there should be further consideration of the question of seeking universally acceptable norms or guidelines that would regulate transfers of sensitive technology. It seemed necessary to seek the adherence of the greatest possible number of States both on the side of supply and that of demand. Although their stated purpose might be different, concerns were expressed that closed-door regimes could result in obstructing the access of developing countries to state-of-the-art technology, especially in those areas considered crucial by them for trade and development and in relation to technological upgrading and new and emerging technologies.

- It was also pointed out that all countries had a stake in the strengthening of international peace and security, as well as in facilitating legitimate international exchanges in the field of high technology, thus positively affecting international trade and economic and social development.

- Additionally, views were expressed on the need for improved modalities to guarantee the transfer and utilization of dual use technology exclusively for peaceful or legitimate defence purposes. In this context the improvement and development of mechanisms for international cooperation on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis was suggested.

- Interest was expressed in continuing to make progress on the sub-item by further focusing the work of the Group at its next year's session.

- It was recalled that the following working papers were submitted on this sub-item in 1991 and 1992: by Argentina and Brazil (A/CN.10/145), by India (A/CN.10/147), by China (A/CN.10/150) and in 1992 by Argentina and Brazil (A/CN.10/171). In addition, a discussion paper was submitted by Canada (WG.IV/INF.1).

"10. At its tenth and final meeting, the Working Group adopted its report."

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/46/42).

2/ A/CN.10/137 of 27 April 1990.

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27).

ANNEX I

Guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters

1. In order to promote increased openness and transparency on military matters and to assist greater comprehension of the dangers of the arms race in all its aspects and of destabilizing accumulations of arms inconsistent with legitimate security needs and to contribute to faster progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2); taking into account the Guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for the implementation of such measures on a global or regional level, as adopted by the Commission at its 1988 substantive session, and relevant General Assembly resolutions, has developed the following guidelines for objective information on military matters.

Objectives

2. Objective information on military matters, though not an end in itself, may, through a dynamic process over time, serve among others the following purposes:

- To encourage openness and transparency on military matters in order to build confidence, enhance mutual trust and contribute to the relaxation of tension and to promote specific disarmament agreements and other concrete disarmament measures;

- To facilitate the process of arms limitation, reduction and elimination, as well as reduction of armed forces, and the verification of compliance with obligations assumed in these areas;

- To assist States in determining the level of forces and armaments sufficient for an adequate defensive capability;

- To increase the predictability of military activities and to avert crises and reduce the risk of military conflict, whether intentional or unintentional, by heading off dangerous errors or misperceptions that could generate or precipitate them;

- To promote greater public understanding and discussion of disarmament and security-related issues;

thereby leading to strengthened international peace and security, global as well as regional, and providing undiminished security of all States at the lowest possible level of armaments.

Principles

3. The Charter of the United Nations must be strictly observed. The purposes and principles of the Charter enshrined in Articles 1 and 2 are particularly relevant in the context of the provision of objective information on military matters.

4. Actions of States relating to objective information on military matters should be governed by the following:

- All States have the responsibility to provide objective information on military matters and the right of access to such information;

- The provision of objective information on military matters should be based on the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, which includes not only armed intervention but also other forms of interference;

- Objective information on military matters should be made accessible to the public of all States to the maximum degree possible consistent with national security and the provisions of related agreements;

- Bearing in mind the duty of all States to provide objective information on military matters, the States with the largest and most sophisticated arsenals have a special responsibility in providing information;

- Measures to promote openness and transparency in military matters, at both the global and the regional level, should take into account the legitimate security needs of States and the principle of undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments;

- The provision of objective information on military matters, in the regional context, should take account of the specific characteristics, degree of stability and political climate in each particular region in relation to the practical level of information necessary to promote openness and transparency, with the aim of contributing to confidence and stability;

- Any field of military activity, component of armed forces of States or their armaments, whether on their own territories, territories of other States or elsewhere, including outer space or the high seas, could be considered for the provision of objective information on military matters, including on nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons, as appropriate;

- States should promote, through consultations on their own initiative, practical measures on the exchange of objective information on military matters, in the light of their specific situation and political, military and security conditions;

- The priorities in disarmament established by the General Assembly in paragraphs 45 and 46 of the Final Document of its Tenth Special Session should be duly taken into consideration, whenever applicable measures relating to objective information on military matters are taken;

- The information to be provided under agreements or arrangements for the exchange of objective information on military matters should be consistent in volume, range and quality with the objectives identified by the parties. The data should be accurate, comparable and provided on a reciprocal basis and may, if deemed necessary by the parties, be subject to verification;

- Exchange of information in the context of disarmament agreements or measures should be designed to meet the specific provisions of such accords;

- Information obtained under specific agreements may be restricted to the participants;

- Measures to promote openness and transparency may be unilateral, bilateral or multilateral, subregional, regional or global, and may use the potential of the United Nations;

- Such measures should be carried out in harmony with other efforts to build confidence, to promote disarmament and to strengthen security;

- As an important confidence-building measure, the provision of objective information on military matters can both promote, and in its turn be promoted by, improvement in the political climate among States concerned.

Scope

5. The potential for increase of openness and transparency through provision or exchange of objective information on military matters in all its aspects is as wide as the whole military field. The scope of any particular exercise will depend on the objective pursued and should be defined in accordance with the foregoing principles through consultations on an equal footing by parties concerned and can be adjusted, as necessary, upon their agreement.

Mechanisms

6. The foregoing objectives should be pursued in accordance with the foregoing principles through a range of mechanisms to promote the provision of objective information on military matters in a comprehensive and equitable manner, both within the United Nations system and outside it.

7. The United Nations should promote the provision of objective information on military matters, inter alia, through:

- Relevant guidelines and other recommendations developed by the Disarmament Commission;

- Collection and publication of information on military budgets provided by Member States on the basis of its standardized reporting system or possible future improvement thereof;

- Maintenance of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

- United Nations studies carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions;

- Related activities of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

- Research performed under the aegis of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

- Operation of appropriate databases in accordance with the provisions of relevant resolutions and provision of advisory services, if requested by Member States.

In addition, if requested by the parties and subject to the availability of appropriate resources, the United Nations can assist in data collection and dissemination in the context of multilateral treaties on arms limitation and disarmament, as is already the case with respect to the Biological Weapons Convention.

8. The Conference on Disarmament can play an important role in promoting the provision of objective information on military matters through measures agreed upon by its members, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

9. Unilateral measures as well as bilateral, subregional, regional and other multilateral arrangements should also be utilized for the provision of objective information on military matters.

Recommendations

10. In the light of the foregoing objectives and principles, and with the aim of enhancing the security of all States, the following recommendations are offered for consideration.

11. The United Nations standardized system of reporting on military expenditures, which has attracted a growing number of participating States, should continue in operation and could be further improved as a global basis for the provision of objectively and comprehensively comparable information on such expenditures.

12. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms should be operated and further developed on the basis of the relevant resolution of the General Assembly and the process set out therein, which is commended to the Member States.

13. States should, in the meantime, take practical measures, on the basis of existing agreements, where applicable, and within appropriate forums, to increase openness and transparency in military matters through the provision of objective information, including on nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass

destruction, the transfer of high technology with military applications, imports and exports of conventional arms, military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies.

14. Individual States and groups of States should consider formulating arrangements, freely arrived at between themselves, to promote the direct flow and exchange of information.

15. The General Assembly should consider the establishment of groups of experts to study ways and means of ensuring greater comparability of nationally supplied data. The objective of greater comparability could also be promoted through the exchange of information and cooperation among interested Member States on statistical methods.

ANNEX II

Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons

1. Under the first subject, entitled "The relationship between the process of nuclear disarmament and international peace and security", Working Group II considered, inter alia, the following points:

- Peace and security through observance of the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law;

- Arms limitation and disarmament, especially regarding nuclear weapons, as an important means to achieve international peace and security;

- A re-affirmation of the final objective of complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

- The doctrine of deterrence;

- A non-discriminatory and comprehensive global regime of non-proliferation;

- The possible proliferation of nuclear weapons as a threat to international peace and security;

- Global and regional disarmament and its contribution to international peace and security.

2. Under the second subject, entitled "Review of the steps taken in the process of nuclear disarmament", the Working Group considered, inter alia, the following points:

- The INF Treaty, the START Treaty and subsequent unilateral and bilateral initiatives and steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards nuclear arms reduction;

- The unilateral reductions by the two nuclear Powers in the European Economic Community in some of their nuclear-weapon programmes;

- The moratorium on nuclear testing by the Russian Federation;

- The decision by France to suspend its nuclear testing for 1992;

- The accession to the NPT by China and the decision of France to accede to the NPT;

- The recent accession to the NPT of South Africa and its safeguards agreement with IAEA, as well as the accession of other southern African States to the NPT;

- The establishment of the International Science and Technology Centre in the Russian Federation.

3. Under the third subject, entitled "Strengthening the process of nuclear disarmament, necessary conditions, and mechanisms required for it", the Working Group considered the following points:

1. Non-proliferation in all its aspects, including, inter alia:

   - A comprehensive ban on nuclear testing;

   - Nuclear-weapon-free zones;

   - A ban on the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

   - Prohibition of the production, testing and development of new nuclear weapons;

   - Strengthening the NPT, and other similar instruments/strengthening the safeguards regime;

   - A ban on testing, development, deployment and storage of nuclear weapons in outer space;

   - Ensuring the safe transfer of existing nuclear weapons;

2. Elimination of nuclear weapons, including, inter alia:

   - Elimination of all sea-, land- and air-launched nuclear weapons in a time-bound framework;

   - Elimination of sub-strategic systems;

   - General prohibition and a thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons;

   - Environmentally and ecologically sound disposal of nuclear weapons;

3. Confidence-building measures, including, inter alia:

   - Security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States;

   - Convention on non-use of nuclear weapons;

   - Withdrawal of strategic nuclear weapons deployed beyond national boundaries;

   - Prevention of nuclear war;

   - Transparency.

4. Under the fourth subject, entitled "The role of the United Nations system in the process of nuclear disarmament with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons", the Working Group considered, inter alia, the following points:

1. Strengthened role of the United Nations to:

   - Develop guidelines and basic principles of arms limitation and disarmament;

   - Consider ways and means of achieving the international community's objectives in nuclear disarmament;

   - Support arms limitation agreements, and, where appropriate, negotiate international instruments in the field of nuclear disarmament;

2. Strengthened role of the Conference on Disarmament as a negotiating body;

3. Strengthened role of IAEA.

ANNEX III

Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security

Paper presented by the Chairman

I. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REGIONAL DISARMAMENT AND GLOBAL SECURITY AND ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT

1. Regional and global approaches to disarmament complement each other and both should be pursued in order to promote regional and international peace and security.

2. The regional approach to disarmament is one of the essential elements in global efforts to strengthen international peace and security.

3. Effective disarmament measures at the global level, particularly in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, have a positive impact on regional disarmament efforts.

4. Any regional measure should take into account the relationship between security in the region and international security as a whole.

5. [Regional and interregional agreements on arms limitation and disarmament contribute to both regional and global security.]

[Regional and interregional agreements on arms limitation and disarmament should also enhance global security.]

[Regional agreements on arms control and disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and confidence-building [would] contribute to [both] regional and global security.]

[Arms limitation and disarmament agreements involving different regions enhance global security and should be encouraged.]

Proposal for a new paragraph

[The regional approach to disarmament should contribute to the achievement of agreed goals and priorities for global disarmament in accordance with the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly.]

II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

1. Any regional arrangement or measure should respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with international law and treaties, including the principle of sovereign equality of all States; non-use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any State; non-intervention and

non-interference in the internal affairs of other States; the inviolability of international frontiers; the inherent right of States to individual and collective self-defence; and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

[2. Regional disarmament agreements should come from within the region itself with full participation of States in the region, on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality of all States.]

3. Any regional disarmament measure should be based on arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. The States in the region themselves should define the region to which such measures will apply as well as the appropriate and specific conditions for the security of their region.

4. Any regional approach to disarmament has to take into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region.

5. Comprehensive political [peaceful] settlement of regional conflicts [and disputes] [constitutes one of the most essential elements] [an important element] [for the reduction of tension and the promotion of] [for promoting] [would contribute to] efforts towards regional peace, security and stability as well as arms limitation and disarmament.

6. Regional disarmament measures should contribute to increasing stability within the region on the basis of [equal and] undiminished security for all the participating States [at the lowest level of armaments]. They should have no harmful effects on States inside and outside the region.

7. Regional approaches to disarmament should give priority to the elimination of the most destabilizing military capabilities and imbalances.

8. Regional disarmament efforts should interact positively with bilateral and other regional political initiatives to build confidence.

[Disarmament measures at the regional scale should serve to enhance confidence-building among the regional States.]

9. In pursuing regional disarmament efforts, States should be mindful of preventing the extension or shift of military imbalances and/or tensions from one area to other areas.

10. Regional security arrangements and disarmament measures should be pursued in order to enhance security at the lowest possible level of armaments and armed forces.

10 bis. Regional or bilateral arrangements within the region for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction would contribute to regional and international peace and security.

11. Regional disarmament measures should seek to address all aspects of arms limitation and disarmament relevant to the specific conditions and characteristics of the region concerned.

12. Regions where serious tensions and high levels of armaments exist should [take the lead in concluding and implementing] [seek to conclude and implement] disarmament agreements establishing a mutually acceptable military balance in the region through equitable [and balanced] reduction of armed forces ensuring [equal and] undiminished security of all States at the lowest possible level of armaments and armed forces.

13. Regional disarmament agreements should contribute to the promotion of economic and social development.

[14. Respect for the principle of peaceful uses of the ocean is essential for the promotion of the regional approach to disarmament.]

[The regional approach to disarmament will benefit from [be enhanced by] respect for the principle of the peaceful uses of the ocean.]

[15. The prevention of the extension of an arms race to outer space should promote the regional approach to disarmament.]

16. Regional [disarmament] agreements concerning transparency and openness freely arrived at by States in the region, taking into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region concerned [and aimed at strengthening the security of all regional States] are essential [contribute] to progress towards regional arms limitation and disarmament.

17. Respect of extraregional States [, particularly nuclear Powers and other militarily significant States] for regional disarmament initiatives and agreements is necessary [will help promote regional security].

[Extraregional States should respect all regional disarmament agreements conducive to [global] peace and security and refrain from any activities harmful to the implementation of those agreements.]

18. Verification measures, as appropriate, should ensure the effective compliance with regional arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

19. The security arrangement of one region, while it could be useful as a guide to other regions, should not necessarily be applicable to other regions given that conditions and characteristics differ from region to region.

20. Socio-economic cooperation among States in the region facilitates efforts to enhance regional security and stability.

Proposals for mergers

[Regional disarmament agreements should contribute to the promotion of socio-economic development and cooperation in order to enhance regional security and stability.]

[[Regional disarmament agreements] [Resources released as a result of regional disarmament agreements] could result in reduced military expenditures, which could contribute to the promotion of economic and social development and thereby facilitate efforts to enhance regional security and stability.]

Proposals for new principles

[Regional disarmament efforts should be pursued in a fair, reasonable, comprehensive and balanced manner.]

[Regional disarmament measures should address the issue of international arms transfers, including the illegal arms trade, with the aim of reducing their destabilizing effects on regional peace and security.]

ANNEX IV

Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security

Paper presented by the Chairman

I. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REGIONAL DISARMAMENT AND GLOBAL SECURITY AND ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT

1. Regional and global approaches to disarmament complement each other and both should be pursued in order to promote regional and international peace and security.

2. The regional approach to disarmament is one of the essential elements in global efforts to strengthen international peace and security.

3. Effective disarmament measures at the global level, particularly in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, have a positive impact on regional disarmament efforts.

4. Any regional measure should take into account the relationship between security in the region and international security as a whole.

5. Global security should be enhanced by regional and interregional agreements on arms limitation and disarmament.

6. The regional approach to disarmament should contribute to the achievement of agreed goals and priorities for global disarmament [in accordance with the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly].

II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

7. Any regional arrangement or measure should respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and should be in conformity with international law [and treaties] [, including the principle of sovereign equality of all States; no use or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any State; non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States; the inviolability of international [frontiers] [boundaries]; the inherent right of States to individual and collective self-defence; the peaceful settlement of disputes] [and the self-determination of peoples].

8. Any regional disarmament measure should be based on arrangements freely arrived at [among] [and with the full participation of] the States of the region concerned. The States in the region themselves should define the region to which such measures will apply as well as the appropriate and specific conditions for the security of their region.

9. Any regional approach to disarmament has to take into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region.

10. Comprehensive and peaceful settlement of regional conflicts and disputes constitutes an essential element in the promotion of regional security and stability.

11. Regional disarmament measures should contribute to increased stability within the region on the basis of undiminished security for all the participating States at the lowest possible level of armaments and armed forces. Such measures should not have harmful effects on the security of States outside the area of their application.

12. Regional approaches to disarmament should give priority to the elimination of the most destabilizing military capabilities and imbalances.

13. Regional disarmament efforts, where appropriate, should interact positively with bilateral and other regional political initiatives to build confidence.

14. In pursuing regional disarmament efforts, States should be mindful of preventing the extension or shift of military imbalances and/or tensions from one area to other areas.

15. Regional [or bilateral] arrangements within the region for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction would contribute to regional and international peace and security.

16. Regions where serious tensions and high levels of armaments exist should particularly seek to conclude and implement disarmament agreements establishing a mutually acceptable military balance in the region, resulting in undiminished security of all States at the lowest possible level of armaments and armed forces.

17. Resources released as a result of implementation of regional disarmament agreements could result in reduced military expenditures, [which may contribute, wherever appropriate,] [and may contribute as appropriate] to the promotion of economic and social development and thereby facilitate efforts to enhance regional security and stability.

18. Multifaceted cooperation among States in the region, especially encompassing political, economic, social and cultural fields, would be conducive to the strengthening of regional security and stability.

19. [[Where] [ever] applicable, the regional approach to disarmament [will] [could] benefit from respect for the principle of peaceful uses of the ocean and outer space.]

or

[Any regional approach to disarmament must respect and, when appropriate, promote the exclusively peaceful and non-military uses of outer space as well as of the oceans, the seabed and the subsoil thereof.]

20. Transparency and openness contribute to progress towards regional arms limitation and disarmament.

21. [[For] regional disarmament agreements [measures] [to be effective they] should be [fully] respected by States outside the region.] [Extraregional States should respect all regional disarmament agreements conducive to [global] peace and security and refrain from any activities harmful to the implementation of those agreements.]

22. Verification measures, as appropriate, should ensure the effective compliance with regional arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

23. The security arrangement of one region, while it could be useful as a guide to other regions, should not necessarily be applicable to other regions given that conditions and characteristics differ from region to region.

24. Regional disarmament efforts should be pursued in a fair, reasonable, comprehensive and balanced manner.

25. Regional disarmament efforts should also address the issue, where appropriate, of the illicit arms trade, with the aim of eradicating its destabilizing effects on regional peace and security [and curbing drug trafficking, terrorism and subversion].

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